

Hollands Way Play Area Improvements

Consultation summary

The public consultation ran for 1 month from 6th May 2022. The public were asked a series of questions about what they liked about the existing play area and what they thought should be done to improve it.

The consultation took the form of an online survey on the Mid Sussex District Council website. There were two separate forms to complete. One for adults, one for children. This was promoted via MSDC social media channels; posters in the play area, community café and around the local area; Clarion Housing put posters up around their properties. Blackwell School were asked to help promote the consultation, and neighbours who share a boundary or directly overlook the play area had a leaflet put through their door.

The MSDC Landscape Architect and Landscapes and Countryside Officer were available to talk to interested local residents in the playground after school on Monday 16th May at 3:30pm. This opportunity was promoted alongside the consultation.

Who responded?

In total we heard from 50 people. We heard the views of 16 young people under the age of 14. Seven completed the online form and nine filled in the form during the site visit. On the day of the visit, there were about 8 boys 8-11 years playing football using the monkey bars as goals, not all of them completed a form.

We also have the views of 34 adults. The majority filled in the online form, we spoke to two adults on site and three sent their views via email so didn't answer all the questions.

Age

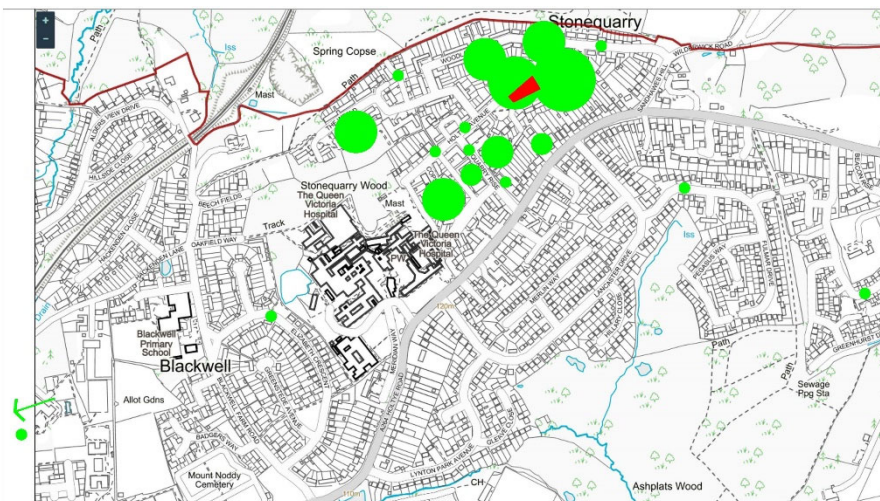
The children we heard from directly were mainly 8 – 14 years. Adults answered on behalf of a range of ages from under 3 to 11 years, with only a few responding regarding children 12 years and over.

Disability

We didn't hear directly from any young people with disabilities but some adults did respond on their behalf or have a disability themselves.

Distance travelled

All except one responder lived within one mile of the play area. The vast majority live very locally (0.3miles or closer) and come from the Stonequarry area, they all arrive on foot.

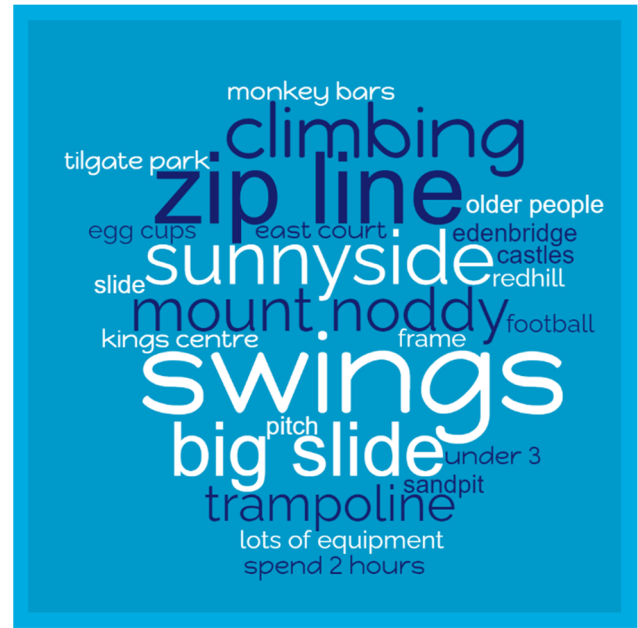


Distribution of responses by postcode

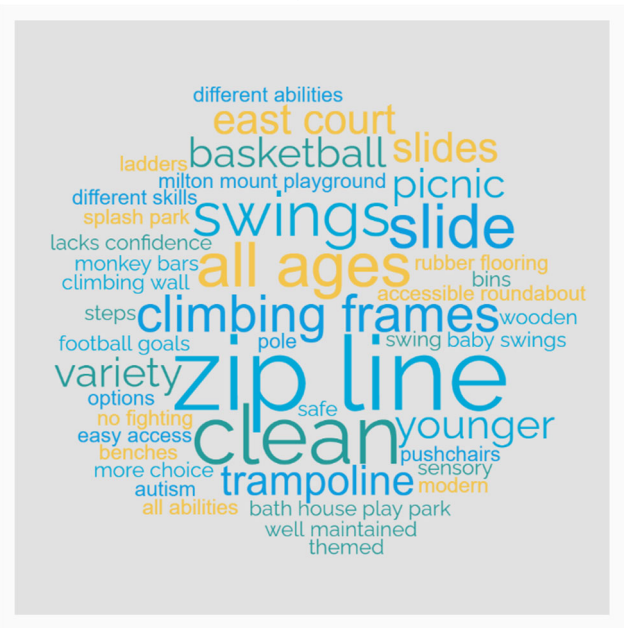
Other good play areas

People were asked what they liked about other play areas they visit. Playgrounds mentioned were primarily larger local parks ie. Mount Noddy and East Court.

What children like at other parks

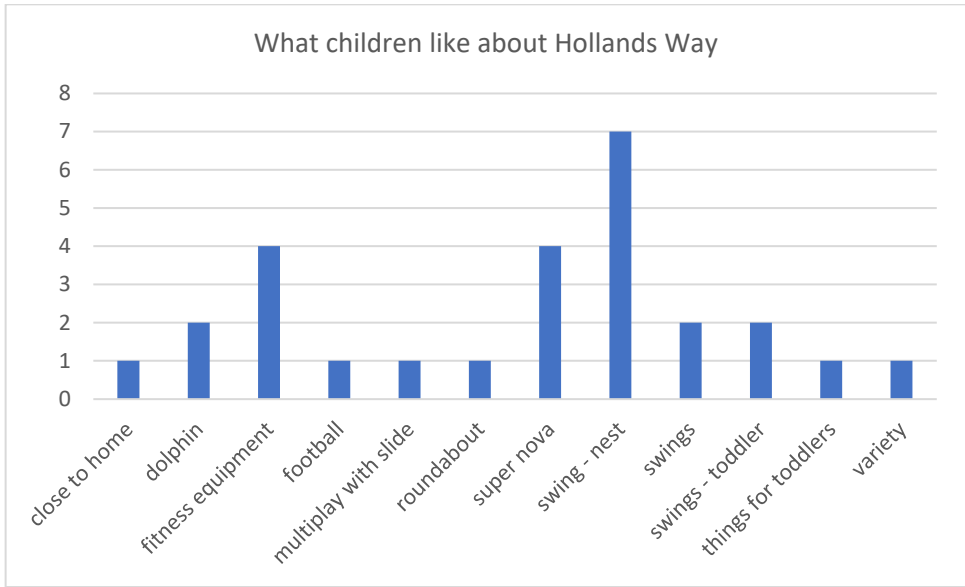


What adults like at other parks

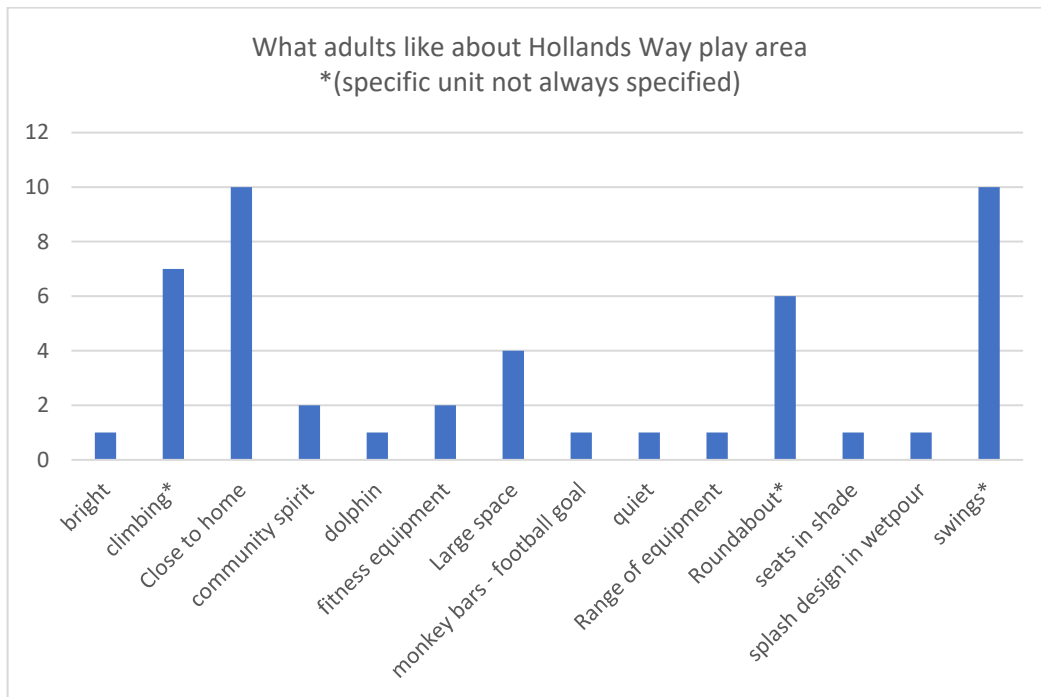


What people like about Hollands Way Play area

Children like the large nest swing, the super nova roundabout and the fitness equipment. Based on observations on the site, they also use the space next to the play area to play football although this didn't get specifically mentioned in the responses.



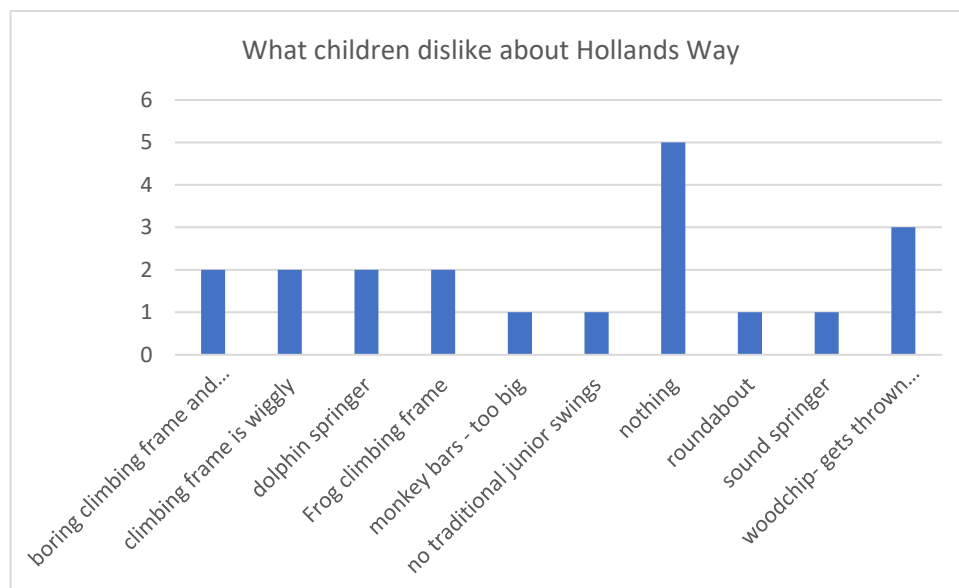
The most popular response from adults was that it was great to have the facility so close to home.



*The site has two sets of swings (basket and toddler) two roundabouts (one with seats and one super nova) and two climbing frames. Some people didn't specify which particular swing, roundabout or climbing frame they liked so these have been grouped together.

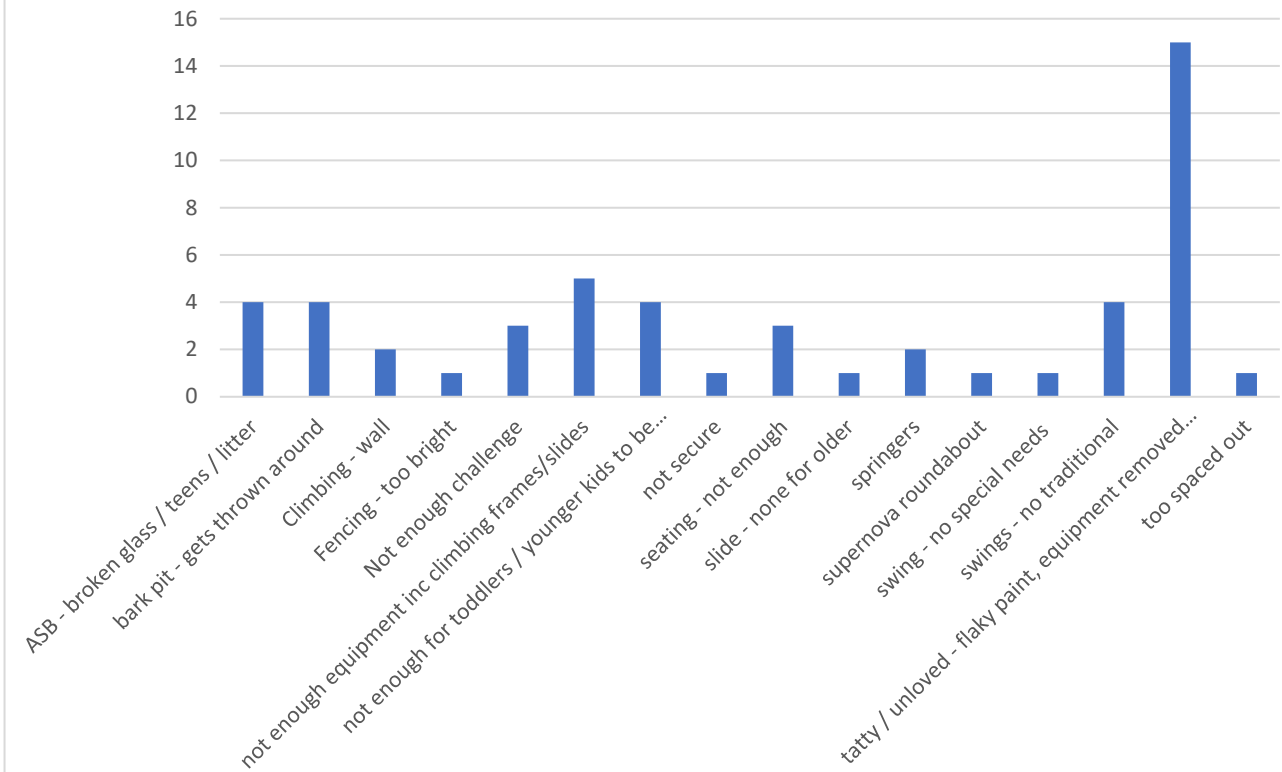
What people don't like about the playground

Children had very little negative to say about the playground.



Adults felt the play area was tatty and unloved and generally not looked after well, with equipment that's been removed and not replaced leaving big gaps. It's felt there is not enough variety of equipment and nothing for young children to play independently on. It was also a running complaint there are no traditional junior swings.

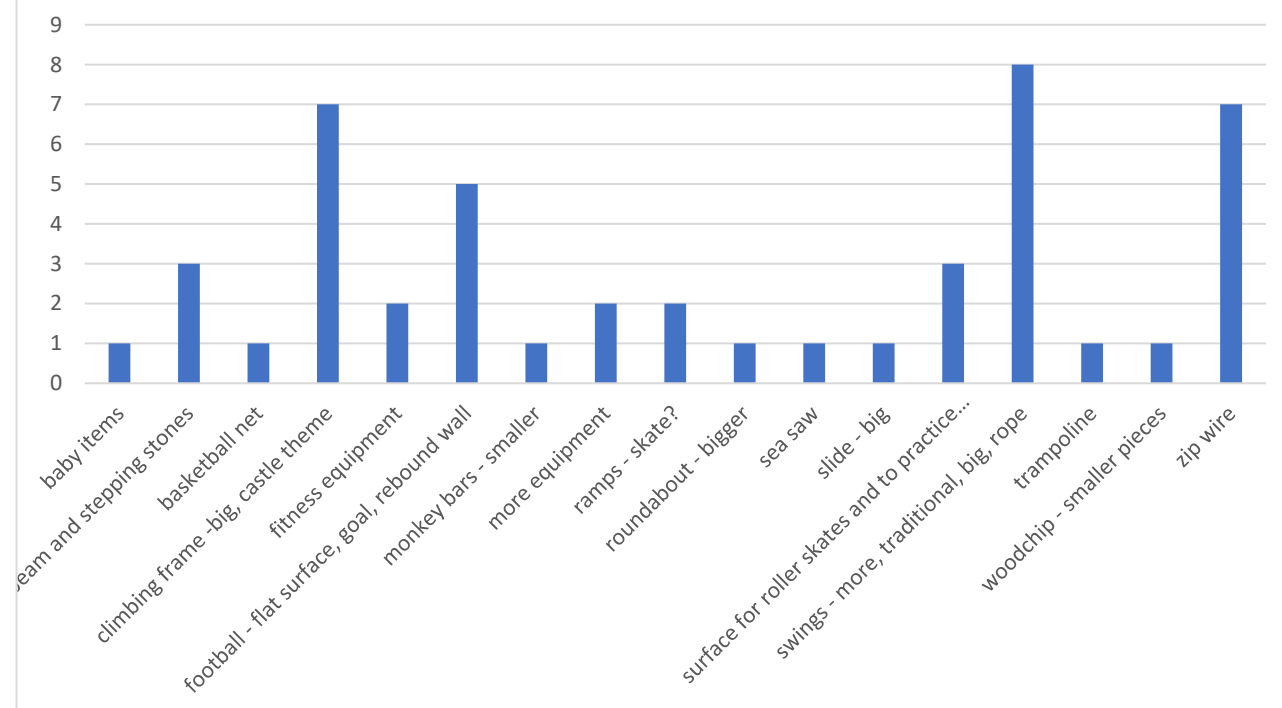
What adults don't like about Hollands Way play area



Suggestions for improvements

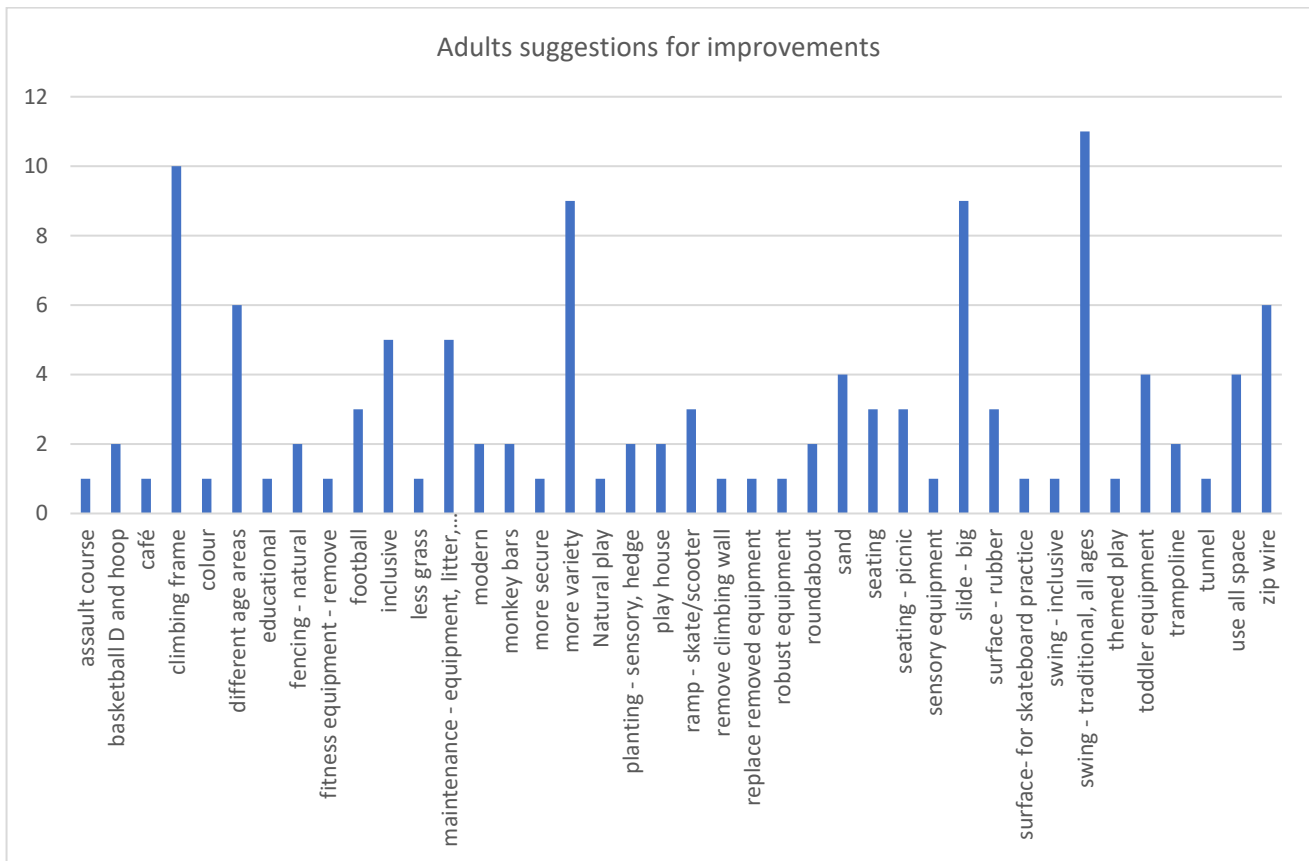
People were asked for three suggestions for improvement.

What children would like us to do



Children's top 3 suggestions:

1. Swings – traditional junior in addition to what's there
2. Zip wire
3. Climbing frame – large, with slides



Adult's top 3 suggestions:

1. Swings – traditional junior in addition to what's there
2. Climbing frame
3. Offer more variety / Big slide

MSDC Landscape Architect

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